

1. (Currently amended) A method of operating a gas turbine engine which powers an aircraft, said engine having a lubrication sump which vents air through a vent which produces an exit pressure at the exit of the vent, comprising:

- a) running the engine at idle; and simultaneously
- b) reducing said exit pressure.

2. (Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein the reducing of paragraph (b) comprises ducting a compressor discharge bleed to an eductor connected to the vent, to thereby draw air through the vent.

3. (Original) Method according to claim 1, and further comprising

- c) terminating the reducing of paragraph (b) when flow through the vent exceeds a floor.

4. (Original) Method according to claim 1, and further comprising:

- c) raising speed of the engine; and
- d) terminating the reducing of paragraph (b).

5. - 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said reducing of exit pressure is accompanied by actuating an eductor having a mixing throat which provides an exit path to air exiting the sump vent.

21. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 20, and further comprising:

- c) maintaining a flow restrictor downstream of the sump vent; and
- d) maintaining the eductor in a de-actuated state at cruise speed.

22. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 21, wherein the flow restrictor is within the mixing throat.

23. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, and further comprising:

- c) terminating the reducing of said pressure during cruise operation.

24. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 23, and further comprising:

- d) during cruise operation, using a flow restrictor to reduce flow through the vent below that which would occur

in the absence of the flow restrictor.

25. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, and further comprising:

- c) maintaining an eductor in fluid communication with said vent; and
- d) using the eductor to maintain fluid flow through the vent above a predetermined minimum, said fluid flow being accompanied by said reducing of pressure.

26. (Cancelled) Method according to claim 1, wherein the operation of paragraph (b) occurs at idle speeds.

27. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 26, wherein the operation of paragraph (b) is terminated at cruise speeds.

28. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 27, and further comprising:

- c) at cruise speeds, restricting flow through said vent.

29. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, and further comprising:

- c) maintaining an eductor in fluid communication with

09/998,432
Art Unit 2813
Docket no. 13-DV-14003

said vent, which eductor

- i) reduces pressure in said vent when actuated, and
- ii) has a mixing throat which contains a flow restrictor;
- d) actuating said eductor during idle operation, to thereby reduce pressure in said vent; and
- e) terminating operation of said eductor prior to cruise operation.

30. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 29, wherein the flow restrictor reduces flow through the vent below that which would occur in the absence of the flow restrictor.

31. (Cancelled) Method according to claim 1, wherein the reducing accompanies the running.

32. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 4, wherein the terminating accompanies the raising.

33. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the sump is gravity fed.